

**Masterclass with Roderick Williams: Tuesday 22 July 2.30pm Britten Studio**

Duration: 180', incl 20-minute interval

**Masterclass with Malcolm Martineau: Wednesday 23 July 2.30pm Britten Studio**

Duration: 180', incl 20-minute interval

**End of Course Concert: Saturday 26 July 2pm Britten Studio**

Duration: 150', incl 20-minute interval

## Building a Recital Programme

The Britten Pears Young Artist Programme (BPYAP) was founded in 1972 by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears. It continues to offer early-career professional musicians high-level, specialised performance training from some of the world's finest performers, teachers and creatives.

The twelve singers and pianists on the Building a Recital Programme course are part of the 2025–26 cohort of young artists on the BPYAP. This eight-day course is led by baritone Roderick Williams and collaborative pianist Malcolm Martineau, who are joined by soprano and voice teacher Julia Faulkner.

Creating new and interesting programmes is an invaluable skill for any artist, whether for performance on the concert stage, preparation for auditions or for success in competitions. This course is designed to support early-career singers and collaborative pianists to explore and reassess their approach to developing a recital programme.

During the course the Young Artists will focus on the vocal works that excite them the most, and building from this foundation find interesting ways to create a programme for their music, combining it with new, perhaps unfamiliar, repertoire.

The course includes two public masterclasses, where the Young Artists receive expert guidance on a wide range of song repertoire. They will also benefit from in-depth private coaching, career advice, sessions on musicians' health and wellbeing, gain insight into the lives of Britten and Pears (including a tour of The Red House and Archive), and recharge creatively, as they enjoy the relaxing countryside around Snape and Aldeburgh.

The End of Course Concert on Saturday 26 July marks the culmination of the week, with each of the eight duos presenting a new work-in-progress recital programme.

*Tutors:*

**Roderick Williams** baritone

**Malcolm Martineau** piano

**Julia Faulkner** soprano

*Young Artists:*

**Adia Evans** soprano

**Justyna Khil** soprano

**Beatriz Volante** soprano

**Nancy Holt** mezzo-soprano

**Will Prior** countertenor

**David Kennedy** baritone

**Jared Michaud** baritone

**Fabian Jakob Balkhausen** bass

**Anna Gebhardt** piano

**Rozalia Kierc** piano

**Daniel Silcock** piano

**Willem van den Dool** piano

**Fabian Jakob Balkhausen** *bass*

German bass Fabian Jakob Balkhausen is a passionate interpreter of art song and recital repertoire from the Baroque to the Romantic eras. He is a scholarship holder of the Richard Wagner Association and this season joins the ensemble of the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden. Previous engagements include Zuniga (*Carmen*), the Sprecher (*Die Zauberflöte*), and the Sacristan in a spectacular new production of *Tosca*. Last summer, he made his debut at the Opera Studio of the Bregenz Festival, where he sang Betto di Signa in Brigitte Fassbaender's production of *Gianni Schicchi*. In 2023, he debuted the role of Simone (*Gianni Schicchi*) at the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory in New York, and sang the male lead in the world premiere of Jack Dauner's *Toadette* during the Tête à Tête Opera Festival in London. This season, he makes his debuts as Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*) and the Hermit (*Der Freischütz*), and takes on the leading role in the world premiere of the operetta *Alles Liebe*. He will also perform the bass solo in the German premiere of Franz von Suppé's oratorio *Extremum Judicium*.

**Adia Evans** *soprano*

A second-year Ryan Opera Center, Adia Evans is a soprano from Baltimore. In Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2024/25 season, she sang Theresa Alvarez (*The Listeners*), Girlfriend 2 (*Blue*), and Countess Ceprano (*Rigoletto*). Last season, she debuted at The Cliburn in Recital with Jake Heggie, Handel's *Messiah* at the Dayton Philharmonic, and First Lady (*The Magic Flute*) at the Annapolis Opera. Other highlights include Mimì (*La Bohème*) with the Borderland Arts Foundation and Beethoven's Ninth with the National Orchestral Institute and Marin Alsop. Adia has performed with Santa Fe Opera, Merola Opera Program, Fort Worth Opera, Dallas Opera Guild, Opera Columbus, Tulsa Opera, and Knoxville Opera, among others. Her numerous honours include an Encouragement Award from the 2024 London Foundation Competition, 3rd place in the 2023 and 2024 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Midwest Region, 2nd place and soprano prize in the 2023 George Shirley Vocal Competition, and 1st place in the 2023 Dallas Opera Guild Lonestar Vocal Competition.

**Anna Gebhardt** *piano*

Anna Gebhardt studied at the University of Music and Theatre Munich, and with Silke Avenhaus and Bernd Glemser in Würzburg. She later delved into the realm of Lied interpretation under Fritz Schwinghammer, Christian Gerhaher and Tobias Truniger. She has been a recipient of the Deutschland Scholarship and is supported as a scholarship holder by Live Music Now München e.V. Music education is particularly close to her heart, and she regularly shares her passion for song and poetry during school visits as part of the Rhapsody in School. She currently teaches accompaniment at the University of Augsburg.

Plans for 2025 include her debut at the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Opéra national du Rhin Strasbourg and the SWR Festspiele Schwetzingen, performing in recitals with tenor Julian Prégardien. She maintains a close artistic collaboration with Christoph Prégardien, Jonas Müller and Anna-Lena Elbert.

Will Prior is the recipient of the Chandos Bursary

Nancy Holt is the recipient of the Elizabeth Harwood Memorial Award

David Kennedy is the recipient of the H. Steven and P.E. Wood Bursary

Anna Gebhardt and Rozalia Kierc are the Viola Tunnard Scholars

### **Nancy Holt** *mezzo-soprano*

British mezzo-soprano Nancy Holt attended the National Opera Studio 2024–5, having graduated from the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. She is an Oxford International Song Festival Young Artist for 2024–5. A recipient of the Musicians' Company Salomon Seelig Award, Nancy gave a winner's recital at Wigmore Hall in April. This coming season, she will cover the role of Guest Singer in *Like Water for Chocolate* at The Royal Ballet and Opera, and Hebe in *HMS Pinafore* at English National Opera. Additionally, she will perform as a Rising Star of Voice at the Edinburgh International Festival in August, and will give a recital 'Summer Nights' in this year's Oxford International Song Festival.

Nancy is supported by the Help Musicians Sybil Tutton Opera Award and the Countess of Munster Trust. She studies with John Evans. Nancy is also a trained dancer, having studied ballet, modern and tap dance for over ten years.

### **David Kennedy** *baritone*

Irish baritone David Kennedy has honed his craft and pursued his artistic development under the mentorship of Owen Miles-Gilhooly and collaborative pianist Dearbhla Collins. He studied at the LiedAkademie with the Heidelberger Frühling under the artistic direction of Thomas Hampson in 2022–4, and recently graduated in music performance (vocal) at RIAM, Dublin. In May, he was selected with collaborative pianist Elitsa Desseva as one of five duos to join the LIEDBasel Akademie in Switzerland, working with Julius Drake and Ian Bostridge. Also this year he is a member of the Wexford Factory (a young artist programme at the Wexford Opera Festival), and is delighted to join the INO Studio. Earlier in 2025 he performed at the Pierre Boulez-Saal with Susan Manoff in a recital featuring Schubert and Wolf, and at the Heidelberger Frühling Kammermusik Fest with the Tiny Bridges ensemble in 'Brahms und der Zwischen Töne'. David was honoured to be selected to compete at the Wigmore Hall/Bollinger International Song Competition 2024 with collaborative pianist Jong-Sun Woo.

### **Justyna Khil** *soprano*

Polish soprano Justyna Khil is a graduate of the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz, where she studied under Hanna Michalak and Anna Wilk. She is a member of the Opera Academy at Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, and is mentored by Izabela Kłosińska, Olga Pasiecznik, Sophia Muñoz, Katelan Trần Terrell and Michał Biel. She has actively participated in masterclasses with, among others, Dearbhla Collins, Hedwig Fassbender, Rosemary Joshua, René Massis, Andreas Scholl, Tobias Truniger and Edith Wiens. She is a laureate of numerous competitions, including the International Stanisław Moniuszko Vocal Competition, the Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition, the Ada Sari International Vocal Artistry Competition, the Antonina Campi International Vocal Competition and the Wassył Slipak Young Vocalists Competition. Since 2020, she has collaborated with pianist Rozalia Kierc, with whom she successfully participated in numerous chamber music competitions and performed recitals in Poland and abroad.

### **Rozalia Kierc** *piano*

Rozalia Kierc is a Polish pianist originally from Wrocław. She studied piano performance and chamber music with Stefan Wojtas and Bartłomiej Wezner at the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz, and studied conducting with Marzena Diakun at the Karol Lipinski Academy of Music in Wrocław. She is a participant of the Opera Academy Young Talents for Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera.

She has been awarded numerous scholarships and prizes at national and international music competitions as a solo pianist, chamber musician and composer. She established Reverie Piano Duo with Maria Moliszewska, releasing a debut album *MODERNA* in 2025. She frequently collaborates with baritone Janusz Żak, and soprano Justyna Khil, which has also inspired her to compose numerous art songs, and has a particular interest in contemporary music. In 2025, she will perform in and co-direct a contemporary staged production of *Winterreise* at Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz.

### **Jared Michaud** *baritone*

Raised on the French-Canadian border in northern Maine, Jared Andrew Michaud studied at Yale University, Trinity Laban Conservatoire, and at the École Normale de Musique. He is now based in Paris. He has worked with pianist Christina Maria Koti since 2020, and the duo has recently won 1st prize in the 4th International SGSM Singing Competition and the 2022 Elisabeth Schumann Lieder Duo Competition. The duo has performed in festivals and concerts across Europe and North America, recently representing France in the Young Europe Sings Academy and taking masterclasses at the International Lied Festival Zeist. Future plans include recitals with Vrienden van het Lied in the Netherlands, and they have been selected as finalists in the 2025 IVC Theatre in Song competition. Jared also has a passion for incorporating activism into his music, previously using artistic means to encourage voting as a Changemaker representing France with Culture Action Europe and serving as an assistant conductor and dialogue facilitator of the Israeli-Palestinian Jerusalem Youth Chorus.

### **Will Prior** *countertenor*

Will Prior is based in London, currently studying a Masters in Vocal Performance at the Royal College of Music as an ABRSM scholar. Will studied Music at Magdalen College Oxford and sang as an Academical Clerk in Magdalen College Choir. He is now preparing for a career as a soloist and has begun performing internationally. He has sung in masterclasses with Edith Wiens, Thomas Allen, Carolyn Sampson and Jeremy Huw Williams, and appeared as alto soloist in concert with a number of ensembles. In June 2025, he sang the principal role of Piero Della Francesca in the RCM summer production of Jonathan Dove's opera *Seven Angels*, directed by Thomas Allen.

As well as loving stage-work, Will is passionate about art-song and devising creative recital programmes that push the boundaries of the countertenor repertoire. He recently made his Wigmore Hall debut, singing French songs as part of a concert celebrating the life and work of Mel Bonis. He studies with Veronica Veysey-Campbell and Caroline Dowdle.

**Daniel Silcock** *piano*

Daniel Silcock is a Scottish pianist based in London, particularly distinguished as a song accompanist. Recent seasons have seen Daniel perform at leading venues, including Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall. He is a Samling Artist, and was a Young Artist with Carnegie Hall's SongStudio 2024, curated by René Fleming, and an Art of Song Fellow at Toronto Summer Music.

Daniel is a passionate recitalist and programmer, and his projects in 2025 include founding SongTide – a new festival for song and chamber music on the North-East coast of Scotland.

This year, Daniel is continuing on the Song Circle and Academy Voices fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied with Joseph Middleton and won major prizes for song accompaniment, including the Brenda Webb Accompanists' Award, the Marjorie Thomas Art of Song Prize, and the Major Van Someren-Godfrey Prize. Daniel was also awarded an additional Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music for an outstanding final recital.

**Willem van den Dool** *piano*

Willem van den Dool is a versatile pianist from the Netherlands, specialising in collaborative piano. He completed his bachelor's degree at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague studying with Slava Poprugun and Ellen Corver, and is now working for his Masters degree with Ellen Corver. He has taken part in masterclasses with Severin von Eckardstein, Alexander Melnikov and Alexei Lubimov, among others.

As an active chamber musician, he plays in several ensembles and has a great love for playing art song. With his regular duo partner, mezzo-soprano Jasperina Verheij, he has won prizes at the Chamber Music Competition Gelre and the International Student Liedduo Competition in Groningen. He also plays on historical instruments, for which he has received regular coaching from Petra Somlai en Bart van Oort. On fortepiano, he recently opened concerts by the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, playing the piano trio of Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel.

Willem loves to draw and cook, and you'll often find him outside enjoying the natural world.

**Beatriz Volante** *soprano*

Portuguese soprano Beatriz Volante is a Samling Artist and a postgraduate at the RCM, studying under the guidance of Ben Johnson and Bryan Evans, where she is a Mimi Oppenby award holder. She has participated in masterclasses with artists such as Mariella Devia, Sophie Bevan, Edith Wiens, Tobias Truniger, Serena Gamberoni, Amanda Roocroft and Michèle Crider. Her operatic roles include Venus (*Venus and Adonis*); Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*); Rowan (*The Little Sweep*); First soprano in Janáček's *Diary of One Who Disappeared*; Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni Tenorio* by Gazzaniga at RCM Britten Theatre; Mother and Ogress in *O Polegarzinho* by Aboulker with OperaFest Lisbon. More recently, she performed as Michal in Handel's *Saul* with the Monteverdi String Orchestra under the direction of Richard Pearce, and as Soprano I in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with Lloyd's Choirs under the direction of Jacques Cohen.

She looks forward to performing as Second Witch and Second Woman in *Dido and Aeneas* at OperaFest this August.

**Julia Faulkner** *soprano*

Julia Faulkner is one of the world's leading voice teachers. Since 2015 she has been director of vocal studies for Lyric Opera of Chicago's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center. She is also a master teacher at the Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Program for Singers, and a coach for the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House and the Harewood Artists at English National Opera. Many of her past students are now performers at the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, and the Berlin, Vienna and Bavarian state operas, and have been finalists in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Operalia, and BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competitions.

She made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the title role of Strauss's *Arabella* in 1994 and has since performed on many of the world's great opera and concert stages, including major roles for many years at the Bavarian and Vienna state operas. Other notable roles include Marschallin (*Rosenkavalier*), Countess (*Figaro*), Fiordiligi (*Così*) and Ariadne (*Ariadne auf Naxos*).

**Malcolm Martineau** *piano*

Regarded as one of the greatest accompanists of his generation, Malcolm Martineau read Music at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, before studying with Geoffrey Parsons at the Royal College of Music. He is an Honorary Doctor and International Fellow of Accompaniment at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He was artistic director of the 2011 Leeds Lieder Festival and he is the current artist director of Oxenfoord International. His awards include the Walther Grüner International Lieder competition.

He works with singers such as Elina Garanča, Sonya Yoncheva, Florian Boesch, Günther Groissböck and Dame Sarah Connolly, as well as singers from the next generation such as Johanna Wallroth, Patricia Nolz and Konstantin Krimmel.

He was made an OBE in the 2016 New Year's Honours for his services to music and young singers.

**Roderick Williams** *baritone*

Roderick Williams is one of the UK's most sought-after baritones and is constantly in demand on the opera stage, concert platform and in recital, encompassing repertoire from the Baroque to world premieres. In recital he can be heard regularly at venues and festivals including Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, LSO St Luke's, the Concertgebouw and Musikverein, and at the Ludlow Song, Oxford Lieder, Three Choirs, Aldeburgh and Edinburgh International festivals. His recitals often feature repertoire by British composers, including many new works, and he is a frequent presenter and performer on BBC Radios 3 and 4.

He was artistic director of Leeds Lieder + in 2016 and artist-in-residence with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra 2020–2. He is singer-in-residence for Sheffield's Music in the Round, presenting concerts and leading on dynamic and innovative learning and participation projects that introduce amateur singers, young and old, to performing classical song repertoire. In 2023 he was artistic director of the St Endellion Summer Festival, and featured artist at the Aldeburgh Festival.